

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00458 201135Z
ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUND-UP NO. 9

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1. ON JANUARY 14, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME RELEASED A LIST OF 37 PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY THE EXECUTIVE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS FROM JANUARY 1-14. AT THE SAME TIME IT RELEASED THE NAMES OF 25 MORE PERSONS WHO WERE RELEASED FROM EXECUTIVE DISPOSITION AS OF JANUARY 7 AND OF TWO CHILEANS WHO HAVE BEEN ORDERED EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY. NAMES OF 27 MORE PERSONS RELEASED FROM THE EXECUTIVE FROM DEC 29 TO JAN 6 WERE PUBLISHED JAN 8. THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAD BEEN CONNECTED TO THE FORMER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ENTRE RIOS. DORA GOLDFARB'S HUSBAND PEDRO TRANSITO LUCERO WAS ALSO ON LIST.) EMBASSY IS POUCHING BOTH LISTS TO ARA/EC. THE PUBLICATION OF THE LISTS WAS ANTICIPATED DEC 30 WHEN THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WOULD BEGIN RELEASING WEEKLY LISTS OF PERSONS FREED FROM EXECUTIVE POWER AS WELL AS THOSE BEING DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE. THIS FIRST LIST INCLUDED ONLY THOSE ARRESTED AND LISTED AS FORMALLY DETAINED UNDER EXECUTIVE POWER DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF 1977; THE STATUS OF OTHER DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE FROM 1974 THROUGH 1976 HAD NOT BEEN PUBLISHED. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00458 201135Z

LIST OF EXECUTIVE DETAINEES DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONTAIN THE NAMES OF OTHER PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE OR UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS DURING THE SAME TWO-WEEK PERIOD. ONE CASE IS THAT OF JOURNALIST RICARDO ANGEL GILABERT WHO WAS HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY THE ARMY FROM JAN 9 TO 15. TWO OTHER PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED DURING THAT PERIOD WHOSE NAMES WERE NOT ON THE MINISTRY LIST WERE PROF. MAURICIO LOPEZ, WHO WAS

TAKEN BY NINE HOODED MEN FROM HIS HOME IN MENDOZA JAN 1, AND JORGE PABLO SVARTMAN, WHO WAS PICKED UP BY THREE ARMED MEN IN CIVILIAN DRESS ON JAN 14. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S DECISION TO PUBLISH LISTS OF NEW EXECUTIVE DETAINEES APPEARS TO BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD HELP ALLEVIATE DOUBTS ABOUT THE FATE OF SOME PERSONS PICKED UP BY AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THE LISTS WILL NOT ACCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO ARE HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY POLICE OR OTHER INDEPENDENTLY ACTING AUTHORITIES OR FOR THOSE WHO ARE MYSTERIOUSLY KIDNAPPED BY UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS.

2. PRENSA LIBRE EDITOR RICARDO BACH CANO WAS RELEASED AFTER EIGHT DAYS IN FEDERAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON ORDER FROM INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY DEC 31. BACH CANO HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIS OFFICE ON DEC 22 BY FOUR MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS POLICE OFFICERS. ALTHOUGH HIS FAMILY REPORTED HIM "MISSING," BACH CANO LATER DESCRIBED HIS DETENTION AS AN AUTHENTIC ARREST AND SAID HE WAS TREATED WELL. HE SAID NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN FOR HIS ARREST EXCEPT FOR A WARNING THAT "NOTHING WHICH FOMENTS DIVISION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE ALLOWED." THE WARNING APPARENTLY REFERRED TO A STORY PUBLISHED IN PRENSA LIBRE (A PRO-FASCIST NEWSPAPER) ON RUMORED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES (SIMILAR STORIES APPEARED IN LA OPINION AND THE BA HERALD.) (ANOTHER UNSUBSTANTIATED VERSION OF BACH CANO'S DETENTION HOLDS THAT IT WAS PLANNED AND PERFORMED IN ORDER TO RESTORE BACH CANO'S INDEPENDENT "CREDENTIALS" WITHIN JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES. BACH CANO AND HIS PAPER ARE REPORTEDLY IN THE PAY OF RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY.)

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 00458 201135Z

3. A POWERFUL BOMB EXPLODED IN AN UNOCCUPIED CINEMA IN CORDOBA FRIDAY (JAN 12) HEAVILY DAMAGING THE CINEMA AND SOME 80 ADJACENT STORES IN A SHOPPING ARCADE. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. THE CINEMA HAD BEEN RUNNING THE FILM "VICTORY AT ENTEBBE" FOR THREE WEEKS, PROMPTING SOME NEWSPAPERS TO REPORT THE BOMBING AS AN ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACK AND LINK IT TO A ROBBERY THE NIGHT BEFORE IN THE ISRAELI BANK IN CORDOBA. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE BOMBING, BUT HAVE REPORTED NO INFORMATION AS OF YET. TODAY'S LA OPINION (JAN 18) ATTRIBUTED THE ATTACK TO ANTI-SEMITIC RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS AND, AFTER CALLING FOR A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE BOMBING INCIDENT, MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT UNTIL NOW AUTHORITIES HAVE NEVER REVEALED THE RESULTS OF EARLIER INVESTIGATIONS OR ARRESTS OF EXTREMISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE IN 1976.

5. A BOMB EXPLODED IN A JEWISH SCHOOL IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES JAN 7, CAUSING NO INJURIES AND ONLY MINOR DAMAGES. IT WAS THE FIRST REPORTED ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACK IN BUENOS AIRES IN MORE THAN THREE MONTHS. LA OPINION (JAN 16) REPORTED THAT A RASH OF

ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE HAD MOVED FROM BUENOS AIRES AND WAS NOW APPEARING ON NEWS STANDS IN LA PLATA.

6. DIRECTORS OF THE DELEGATION OF ARGENTINE-ISRAELI ASSOCIATIONS CALLED ON THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA JAN 15 TO PROTEST THE RELEASE OF PALESTINEAN TERRORIST ABU DAUD. THE GROUP RELEASED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND DISMAY OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND WARNED THAT FRANCE WAS PUTTING ITSELF IN FUTURE DANGER FROM TERRORIST GROUPS.

7. FOUR MEMBERS OF THE ERP RECEIVED SENTENCES OF 17 AND 20 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION AND POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DOCUMENTS BY A FEDERAL JUDGE IN TUCUMAN JAN 11. THE FOUR WERE ARRESTED IN MAY 1974 WHILE TRANSPORTING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO A TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP IN TUCUMAN. IN ANOTHER CASE, A FEDERAL CRIMINAL COURT OVERTURNED A LOWER COURT'S VERDICT AND ACQUITTED JUAN ALFREDO PALMERIO OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 00458 201135Z

WEAPONS. PALMERIO HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND CONVICTED OF THE CHARGE IN 1974. THE COURT SAID THERE WAS NO PROFF THAT PALMERIO HAD BEEN CONNECTED TO SUBVERSIVE GROUPS.

8. A PETITION OF HABEAS CORPUS WAS FIELD ON BEHALF OF MARIA ESTHER LORUSSO LAMMLE, A STUDENT OF RUSSION ORIGIN WHO DISAPPEARED MAY 14. ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT JAN 6, THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY HAD INTERVENED ON THE LAMMLE CASE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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